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Message Text

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ACTION SSM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 IO-13 SS-15 INR-07

L-03 SAB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 ACDA-07 NSC-05 DODE-00

PM-04 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SP-02 /084 W
---------- 031263
O 091815Z NOV 76
FM USMISSION SINAI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1300
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TELAVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINAI 2086

FOR SSM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, UN
SUBJECT: UN AND IDF INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECTED INTRUSION

REF: SINAI 1873

1. AT 1000 HOURS LOCAL TIME, 9 NOVEMBER 1976, IDF CONTACTED UNEF TO REPORT SUSPECTED BEDOUIN INTRUSION ACROSS J-LINE FROM BUFFER ZONE INTO IDF CAMP APPROX 3 KM FROM CHECKPOINT BRAVO ON ROAD TO RAFIDIM. ISRAELIS CLAIM STORAGE SHED WAS BROKEN INTO DURING NIGHT OF 8 NOVEMBER AND EQUIPMENT INCLUDING SOME SMALL ARMS AMMO WAS STOLEN. IDF TRACKERS FOLLOWED TRACKS OF THREE CAMELS TO J-LINE. IDF REQUESTED UNEF PERMISSION TO ENTER BUFFER ZONE AND CONTINUE TRACKING CAMELS.

2. UNEF HEADQUARTERS GRANTED PERMISSION AND AT APPROXI-MATELY 1215 HOURS LOCAL TIME PARTY OF FOUR IDF TRACKERS ESCORTED BY TWO UNMO FROM CHECKPOINT BRAVO RESUMED TRACKING. ACCORDING TO UNMO, TRACKS OF THREE CAMELS AND THREE PERSONNEL CROSSED J-LINE APPROX ONE KILOMETER WEST OF CHECKPOINT BRAVO THEN LED THROUGH WADI APPROX 700
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METERS SOUTHEAST OF SFM BASE CAMP TOWARD GIDDI ROAD. IN

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WADI TRACKERS FOUND CAVES WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN USED
IN RECENT PERIOD; HOWEVER, ONLY EVIDENCE OF STOLEN
EQUIPMENT WAS FEW ROUNDS OF 9MM ISRAELI AMMO
FOUND NEAR TRACKS IN WADI. ACCORDING TO UNMO, TRACKS
FOLLOWED WADI IN SOUTH WESTERN DIRECTION TOWARD GIDDI
ROAD. AT APPROX 1530 HOURS LOCAL TIME, IDF TRACKING
OFFICER DECIDED TO CALL OFF SEARCH SINCE TRACKS SHOWED
PERSONNEL HAD MOUNTED CAMELS AND IT WAS SURMISED THAT
PARTY MIGHT THEN BE SOME DISTANCE AWAY. AT THIS TIME
TRACKING PARTY HAD REACHED A POINT IN GIDDI PASS NORTH
OF ROAD AND APPROX 4 KILOMETERS EAST OF GHANBATT CAMP IN
GIDDI PASS.

3. THE UNMO WITH TRACKING PARTY DID NOT ASK GHANBATT
TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE TRACKS SAYING THAT IT HAD
NOT OCCURRED TO HIM. WE ARE REQUESTING THAT GHANBATT
DO THIS FIRST THING IN THE MORNING AND HAVE ALSO REQUESTED
UNEF HELICOPTER RECONNAISSANCE IN EARLY WARNING AREA STARTING
FROM WHERE TRACKING PARTY STOPPED.

4. THIS INCIDENT CAPS A PERIOD OF 13 DAYS IN WHICH CAMELS AND
TRACKS OF HUMANS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED AT VARIOUS POINTS NEAR THE
EARLY WARNING AREA. THERE HAS BEEN LESS THAN HALF HEARTED
SUPPORT BY GHANBATT WHEN J-1 HAS REPEATEDLY ASKED THAT
CAMEL SIGHTINGS AND TRACKS OF MEN SEEN ON THE WESTERN
PERIMETER OF J-1 BE INVESTIGATED. ON THIS DATE GHANBATT
OFFICERS INFORMED US THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO PATROL IF
THEY HAVE TO LEAVE THE ROADS WITHOUT UNEF MINE CLEARING
TEAM PROCEEDING EACH PATROL. FORCE COMMANDER UNEF TELLS ME
HE IS CONSIDERING DOING THIS.

5. COMMENT: THIS INCIDENT HAS SOME PARALLEL WITH
INTRUSION REPORTED REFTEL WHICH OCCURRED NEAR MITLA EAST
WATCH STATION. IN BOTH CASES TRACKS SHOWED PERSONNEL
WEARING SOME TYPE OF BOOT. IN THIS CASE TWO PAIRS OF
BOOTS HAD RIDGED SOLES AND ONE HAD SMOOTH SOLES. PHOTO-
GRAPHS OF BOOT TRACKS WILL BE COMPARED WITH MITLA
EAST PHOTOS. BEDOUINS IN THIS AREA DO NOT USUALLY WEAR
BOOTS. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY ASKED IDF FOR REPORT ON
MITLA EAST INVESTIGATION BUT NONE RECEIVED TO DATE. COL.
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LEVINSON SCHEDULED VISIT SFM NOVEMBER 11, 1976 AND WE
WILL DISCUSS BOTH INCIDENTS WITH HIM AND REITERATE REQUEST
FOR FULL REPORT.

6. IN ADDITION TO THIS INCIDENT AND THE INCIDENT REPORTED
IN REFTEL, I HAVE JUST LEARNED OF AN INFILTRATION WITHIN PAST
24 HOURS OF A PARTY OF BEDOUINS (NUMBER NOT SPECIFIED) INTO THE
INDONESIAN BATT AREA APPROXIMATELY 7 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF

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MITLA WEST WATCH STATION. THIS PARTY IS REPORTED TO HAVE ENTERED FROM IDF CONTROLLED TERRITORY APPROX 15 KM SOUTH OF MITLA WEST WATCH STATION. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS, WHICH I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PIN DOWN, OF INTERMITTENT BEDOUIN PENETRATION INTO THE BUFFER ZONE FROM THAT SAME AREA. BETWEEN THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE GHANBATT TO GET OFF THE ROADS AND INVESTIGATE AND THE ACCUMULATING EVIDENCE THAT BEDOUINS CAN PASS FAIRLY EASILY THROUGH THE J-LINE INTO THE BUFFER ZONE, THE CONCLUSION IS INESCAPABLE THAT UNEF IS NOT ABLE TO CARRY OUT ITS SECURITY TASK INSIDE THE BUFFER ZONE ALONG THE J-LINE AND THAT IDF HAS STRETCHED ITS SECURITY FORCES TOO THIN TO EXERCISE CONTROL OF BEDOUIN MOVEMENTS THROUGH J-LINE.

7. IN VIEW OF FAILURE GHANBATT SENTRIES TO DETECT PASSAGES OF BEDOUIN DURING NIGHT WITHIN 700 METERS SFM CAMP AND GENERALLY POOR SECURITY PICTURE IN AREA AT PRESENT, WE ARE TIGHTENING SECURITY MEASURES HERE AND WILL DISCUSS THIS FURTHER IN SEPTEL. THORNE

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